

Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland

July 6, 2009/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Maryland Department of Planning

Baltimore, Maryland

Meeting Summary

Members: Jon Laria, Marty Baker, Karl Brendle, Sandy Coyman, John Dillman, Teena Green, Richard Hall, Frank Hertsch, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Jeanette Ortiz, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Kurt Sommer

Attendees: David Costello, Amy DeHuff, Candace Donoho, Les Knapp, Steve Lafferty, David Lever, Jim Lynn, Katie Maloney, Amanda Mock, John Papagni, Dan Pontious, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Hara Wright-Smith

MDP Staff: Steve Allan, Amanda Conn, Pat Goucher, Roz Hamlett, Rich Josephson, Jenny King, Stephanie Martins, Sharon Reichlyn, Pat Russell, Shelley Wasserman, David Whitaker

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Jon Laria, welcomed members to the meeting.

Mr. Laria informed the members that David Beall had resigned his seat on the Task Force. Mr. Beall expressed his enjoyment serving on the Task Force, but could no longer contribute the time that is necessary to play a productive role. Mr. Laria said Mr. Beall will be replaced at a future time. Mr. Laria asked that if anyone had a strong recommendation to let Mr. Laria or Jenny King know.

Mr. Laria informed the members that the Task Force is going to receive a letter from the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Laria said that when the letter is received, he will have Jenny King scan the letter and forward to the members.

Department of Housing & Community Development Update

Mr. Kurt Sommer advised that there have been two meetings of the Revitalization Workgroup. The third meeting has been scheduled for July 15th at 1:00 p.m. at DHCD's new offices, 10 North Calvert Street, Baltimore. DHCD is in the process of assembling the draft Workgroup report, which will be circulated later this week. Work is also being done on recommendations from comments received so far. Mr. Sommer invited everyone to attend the

next meeting. Mr. Laria added that the membership of the Workgroup comprises a solid, broad cross-section of individuals.

Maryland Department of the Environment Update

Ms. Kenney advised there has been no new developments within the last month and that their work is continuing.

Maryland Department of Transportation Update

Ms. Marty Baker noted that the Purple Line was added to the Long Range Plan. She also informed the members about the Strategic Trails Plan was announced on June 6th as part of a bike path opening. She also stated that further input has been solicited from stakeholders for the Howard Street initiative. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st.

Maryland Department of Planning Update

Mr. Hall reported that MDP has been involved more than ever before and has engaged earlier and more often in the comprehensive plan process. Their work on the Task Force recommendations has been ongoing. He also advised that a developer has sued MDP and MDE dealing with the Terrapin Run issue and the denial of the Water and Sewer Plan related to Terrapin Run. The article appeared in the Baltimore Sun last week.

Priority Funding Areas/Schools Update

Mr. Laria reported the workgroup has a solid work plan to get through by the November deadline. At a previous meeting of the Workgroup, Mr. Knaap gave a presentation on PFA's. Mr. Laria said he is expecting to have a presentation by MDP at the next meeting scheduled for July 8th at 1:00 p.m. The Workgroup will be looking at other State Development Plans and Priority Funding Area's. Mr. Laria requested that Mr. Knaap's paper on State Development Plans be circulated to the entire Task Force.

Mr. Laria asked David Whitaker to talk further about Schools Sub-committee of the Workgroup. Mr. Whitaker explained that the Schools workgroup was charged to develop recommendations on three areas which were broken into three workgroups:

- Urban vertical school constraints: Chair- David Lever
- Six-year CIPs: Chair-Victor Bonaparte
- PFA review of schools: Chair: Derick Berlage (entire group will participate)

Mr. Whitaker said meetings will continue throughout the month of July. On July 27th the entire workgroup will meet to see where things stand. Several other upcoming meetings include August 21st for the sub-group report drafts and a final report expected by September 7th. Mr. Whitaker said right now the group is developing ideas and concepts. He expects to have more information after the meeting on July 27th.

Conflicts/Inefficiencies Update

Mr. Laria reported that the survey was still in development.

Land Preservation/TDR Update

Ms. Dru Schmidt-Perkins explained that the Land Preservation/TDR Workgroup was required to provide an interim TDR Report by July 1st to the full Task Force. She noted that there is an awful lot done already on TDRs, but the information needs to be put together to make it useful. She noted that the draft report mentions two studies – one on the Eastern Shore and the other with interns at DNR. Ms. Schmidt-Perkins said the TDR Interim Report reflects what is happening across the State and how effective are the programs. Next steps include how to overcome obstacles for getting a good TDR program in a local jurisdiction. The Workgroup will also be looking at some innovative ideas for transit.

Mr. Dillman noted a need to look at TDR's in the context of the economic down turn.

Mr. Laria told Ms. Schmidt-Perkins and Mr. Dillman of his appreciation of the fill in the holes approach. He would like to see the workgroup connect the dots, and would like to see some type of state of the art document, what is available in one place and decide what can be accomplished with it.

Ms. Perkins stated that the next meeting is scheduled for July 13th at the Department of Agriculture.

Education Workgroup Update

Ms. Green informed the members that a part of the 2009 legislation required a training course for Planning Commission and Board of Appeals members. Recommendations for this training were due by July 1st.

She said the next phase is doing more analysis on the information that the Workgroup has compiled and to possibly looking at other states to fill in the gaps.

Mr. Laria encouraged members to go through the matrix and share their comments and ideas.

Indicators Update

Mr. Sandy Coyman informed the members that Indicators Bill from the 2009 Legislative Session charged the Task Force with making recommendations for indicators in the uncodified section of the Bill with a July 1, 2009 deadline.

He stated that the Workgroup worked on the matrix which has been continually added to. He explained that the matrices had been broken into two – one is the recommended indicator list by

the group and the other includes the indicators that were for consideration. Mr. Coyman said the recommended list will take more time and suggested that they not move forward at this point.

Mr. Hall said that Mr. Coyman and the staff worked very hard on this effort. The group has been looking at what is available statewide and what is actually able to be accomplished.

Ms. Kenney commented on several factors that helped to make these indicators on the “recommended” list saying that everyone was in agreement that these had some merit and data could be gathered.

Mr. Knaap inquired about the statutory indicators. He felt they were unclear and asked the Workgroup to consider this uncertainty. Mr. Laria read the five statutory indicators. Mr. Knaap reiterated that the Workgroup needs to think about this in addition to its actual charge.

Mr. Hall noted that the statutory indicators had to be accomplished as a part of the local jurisdiction’s annual report. He noted there are a number of resources to do this reasonably well.

Mr. Sommer found most of the indicators suggested by the Workgroup for the uncodified section of the Bill doable; however there are some that he would like to put back on the table.

Mr. Coyman said we need to focus more on indicators that relate to the essence of smart growth.

Ms. Conn said the law requires that a report be completed for the Governor and the General Assembly.

Mr. Hertsch stated that most problems come with government managing growth and cost is also a consideration. Other factors include the average cost of issuing building permits that are influenced by TDR’s, cost of impact fees, and some consideration towards regulatory costs.

Mr. Laria referred to a letter that was sent to the Task Force from CPHA regarding housing indicators. Mr. Dan Pontius, CPHA distributed copies of the letter, including a map and said the indicators they are suggesting deal with higher and lower housing opportunity areas, neighborhood health indicators, economic, job growth and education. He noted that smart growth has a place for everybody.

Mr. Sommer said he felt the makeup of the economic indicator has not been accomplished as yet.

Mr. Laria said the Task Force needs to move forward with the Indicators that they have recommended to meet the statutory deadline. For those recommendations on the second list he suggested to not leave behind but come back and discuss later. The transmittal in connection with responding to the statutory requirement should say- this is as far as we have gotten, and we intend to look back at the others which will take some more time to discuss.

Mr. Knaap said he is opposed to adopting right now.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins suggested that the group needs to deliver the message that this is a tougher issue than was expected and more time is needed or submit the list that has been compiled.

Mr. Coyman requested more time and also revise the introduction. He felt the list could be reworked and also convey where we are. Need to ask “where are we going to go from here?” Also need to emphasize that this is an interim report and more time is needed.

Mr. Laria suggested the group use the next 30 days to work on this project, and be ready to discuss more at the next Task Force meeting.

Mr. Coyman agreed with Mr. Laria’s recommendation.

Smart Sites

Mr. Sommer distributed information about the new Smart Sites initiative, noting that the Governor announced this new initiative last week in Cambridge. The first round has been nominated by the State agencies; the second round will include State agencies and local government. Several components of the Smart Sites include – strengthening local/private activities; smart sites represent a range of public/private projects; and coordination – how do we coordinate local and State investment.

Mr. Sommer advised that plans are being made to move forward with the 2nd round in September. Other projects include redevelopment sites and moving TOD sites with more school construction and rehab mixed income housing. Mr. Costello added this is an essential element. He said this is something that we will be continuing to do. The administrative element is ongoing. Mr. Costello said he is looking forward to any recommendations that members have and their ideas. He said we need to continue to focus on smart growth.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.